

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

ECONOMIC EQUIPMENT: THE BUDGETS

The expense of the conquest as well as of administration forced the Admirals to take over the Annamite taxes. Unfortunately, for their accuracy, the old tax lists were not immediately discovered. In addition there was no survey of the country, and the expense that this would involve kept the project from being carried out. Besides the personal and land taxes, which were revised after a superficial inquiry—and it was an honourable tradition in Annam to dissimulate the amount of cultivated land—there were the Farms of Opium and Gaming. Additional revenues came from commercial licenses and ships entering the port of Saigon. The year 1864 was the first to have a regular budget which boasted an income of over three million francs. Taxes at this time began to be paid in money and no longer in kind. This constituted a more serious burden for the people, and in addition the Officer-Inspectors were poor book-keepers, and often inadvertently unjust. The taxes paid under the Admirals were excessive for a poor country without capital reserves, and with only one crop and a sparsely settled population. Bert was sent to Indo-China with very few credits, and with the express tmdei^taining that existing expenses must be cut. What work fee might do must be accomplished with the local resources. A deficit would hopelessly compromise his work, even though the unpacified of the country made tax-collecting next to impossible. So hostile Metropolitan opinion to Tonkin that there was insistence that the not only pay for itself but for the army of occupation as This but the first of a series of financial burdens with which the colony. The responsibility for Cainbodia*s uprising in 1884

can be kid at
tfee of exaggeration. The assignment of a
civil list
use of Frrnck tax collectors was so great a mistake
it its own ends. In addition to restoring the native
adminis-
the Protectorate had to pay for the military
suppression. Later
Dft put m single budget, under
Franco-'Cambodian
tte **King's** Firms for revenues.
the **spoiled dbiU** of the Union. Its wealth was
by its functionaries, who were allowed to persist in
because they made no demands on France.
-mm to help out the shaky Protectorate budgets
was
sod **CoduchChiiia's** loud complaints defeated
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